

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please cancel claim 1-23 in the patent application and insert therefor the following new claims:

61 ~~24~~ (Amended) A fire scale resistant, work hardenable jewelry silver alloy composition comprising:  
at least 86% by weight silver;  
0.5-7.5% by weight copper  
0.07 - 6% by weight of a mixture of zinc and silicon wherein said silicon is present in an amount of from about 0.02 to about 2.0% by weight; and  
from about 0.01 to no more than 2.0% by weight germanium,  
wherein an increase in the amount of germanium does not result in linear hardening performance and that hardening is non-linear with the degree of work.

~~25~~ (Original) The silver alloy composition of claim ~~24~~ wherein said silver is present in an amount at least 92.5% by weight.

~~26~~ (Original) The silver alloy composition of claim ~~24~~ wherein said copper is present in an amount of from about 2.0 to about 4.0% by weight.

~~27~~ (Original) The silver alloy composition of claim ~~24~~ that includes zinc in an amount of from about 2.0 to about 4.0% by weight.

~~28~~ (Original) The silver alloy composition of claim ~~24~~ wherein said germanium is present in an amount of from about 0.04 to no more than 2.0% by weight.

~~29~~ (Original) The silver alloy composition of claim ~~24~~ that includes an additive selected from the group consisting of indium, boron and a mixture of indium and boron in an amount of

up to about 3.5% by weight.

~~7~~ 30. (Original) The silver alloy composition of claim ~~29~~ wherein said mixture comprises up to about 2% by weight boron and up to about 1.5% by weight indium.

~~8~~ 31. (Original) The silver alloy composition of claim ~~24~~ that includes tin amount up to about 6% by weight.

~~9~~ 32. (Original) The silver alloy composition of claim ~~31~~ wherein said tin is present in an amount of from about 0.25 to about 6% by weight.

[ 33. (Cancelled)

~~10~~ 34. (Original) A fire scale resistant, work hardenable jewelry silver alloy composition comprising:

81-95.409% by weight silver;  
0.5 -6% by weight copper;  
0.05-5% by weight zinc;  
0.02-2% by weight silicon;  
0.01-2% by weight boron;  
0.01-1.5% by weight indium; and,  
0.01-no more than 2.0% by weight germanium,

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~~11~~ 35. (Original) A fire scale resistant, work hardenable jewelry silver alloy composition comprising:

75-99.159% by weight silver;  
0.5-6% by weight copper;  
0.05-5% by weight zinc;  
0.02-2% by weight silicon;

0.01-2% by weight boron;  
0.01-1.5% by weight indium;  
0.25-6% by weight tin; and,  
0.01-no more than 2% by weight germanium,

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36. (Cancelled)
37. (Cancelled)
38. (Cancelled)
39. (Cancelled)
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43. (Cancelled)
44. (Cancelled)
45. (Cancelled)
46. (Cancelled)

Grant